

13. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein the ceramic green sheet has a thickness equal to or smaller than 9 μm .

14. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein the internal electrode pattern is formed from an electrically conductive paste whose principal component is Ni powder.

15. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the internal electrode pattern is formed from an electrically conductive paste whose principal component is Ni powder.

R E M A R K S

In response to the Examiner's Restriction Requirement dated February 11, 2003 in the above-identified application, the Applicants provisionally elect Group I(Claims 1 to 7) drawn to a multiplayer displacement element for further prosecution on merits, with traverse.

Applicants have amended claim 8 and added process claims 12-15, without adding new matter and in full compliance with the statutory requirements.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claim by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE".

Group I is provisionally elected with traverse.

The Examiner asserted that the present invention including Group I(claims 1 to 7) and Group II(claims 8 to 11) must be restricted to Group I or II under 35 U.S.C. 121. However,


the method claim 8 is written in the form of a dependent claim by reciting the multilayer displacement element of claim 1 of Group I. Therefore, it is believed that claim 8 should be examined together with claims of Group I.

Further, it is also believed that claim 8 is a linking claim of product claim 1 and newly added process claim 12.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that the invention of Group I and Group II be included in one application and be examined by the Examiner for an expedite and efficient prosecution proceeding and for a consistent examination.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully request that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn upon reconsideration.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

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In the Claims:

Claim 8 has been amended as follows:

8. (Amended) A method for manufacturing the multilayer displacement element of claim 1, comprising the steps of:

(a) forming ceramic green sheets that are composed of electrostrictive ceramic powder containing the barium titanate as a major component;

(b) alternately stacking a multiplicity of internal electrode patterns formed from an electrically conductive paste and a plurality of ceramic green sheets to thereby produce a laminated ceramic green body; and

(c) sintering the laminated ceramic green body, wherein the sintering process is conducted at a temperature ranging from 1000 to 1400 °C and for a duration ranging from 0.5 to 20 hours, thereby producing the multilayer displacement element of claim 1.

Claim 12-15 has been added as follows:

12. (New) A method for manufacturing a multilayer displacement element, comprising the steps of:

(a) forming ceramic green sheets that are composed of electrostrictive ceramic



powder containing barium titanate as a major component;

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(b) alternately stacking a multiplicity of internal electrode patterns formed from an electrically conductive paste and a plurality of ceramic green sheets to thereby produce a laminated ceramic green body; and

(c) sintering the laminated ceramic green body, wherein the sintering process is conducted at a temperature ranging from 1000 to 1400 °C and for a duration ranging from 0.5 to 20 hours.

13. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein the ceramic green sheet has a thickness equal to or smaller than 9 μm .

14. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein the internal electrode pattern is formed from an electrically conductive paste whose principal component is Ni powder.

15. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the internal electrode pattern is formed from an electrically conductive paste whose principal component is Ni powder.